

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Delete the following from the first line at page 1:

~~Patent Application~~

~~Messer Cutting & Welding GmbH~~

Please add the following new paragraph beginning at page 1 between the title and first line of the text:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

The present application claims priority from German Patent Application No. DE 103 32 422.4, filed July 16, 2003.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 2 insert the following:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 5 insert the following:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning at line 4 of page 14 insert the following:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Before the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 14 insert the following:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**